



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/612,288	07/07/2000	Kenichiro Sakai	826.1611/JDH	8400

21171 7590 04/08/2003

STAAS & HALSEY LLP  
700 11TH STREET, NW  
SUITE 500  
WASHINGTON, DC 20001

EXAMINER

WU, JINGGE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2623

DATE MAILED: 04/08/2003

2

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/612,288

Applicant(s)

SAKAI ET AL.

Examiner

Jingge Wu

Art Unit

2623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 July 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1, 2 and 4-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 3 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some \* c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2, and 4-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US5513304 to Spitz in view of US 6295385 to Takaoka et al.

As to claim 1, Spitz discloses a document image correcting device correcting an input document image to be a properly oriented image, comprising:

a line orientation determining unit determining whether a line orientation of an input document image is either vertical or horizontal (Fig. 1, element 44 and 46, col. 6 line 16-col. 7 line 7);

a character image extracting unit extracting a character image from the input document image (Fig. 1 element 38, col. 13, lines 21-31);

a character orientation detecting unit detecting whether or not to require a rotation, a rotation angle if the rotation is required, which are intended for correcting the character image extracted to be properly oriented, in corresponding with the result of line orientation determining unit (Fig. 1 element 42, Fig. 2a-2b and Fig. 4a-4b, col. 7 lines 8-23, col. 9 lines 36-42); and

a document image correcting unit correcting the input document image to be a properly orientated document image based on a result of detection made by the

character orientation detection unit (Fig. 1, Fig. 2a-2b and Fig. 4a-4b, col. 7 lines 8-23, col. 9 lines 36-42).

Spitz does not explicitly mention mirror image flipping which is well known in the art.

Takaoka, in an analogous environment, discloses a orientation determining function by flipping character mirror image and recognizing the character (Fig. 12c, col. 10, lines 21-67).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the scheme of Takaoka in the device of Spitz in order to accurately determine the orientation of the document image (Takaoka, col. 1-col.2).

As to claim 2, Takaoka further discloses rotating character image or by flipping the mirror image (Fig. 12c, col. 10, lines 21-67);

a character recognition unit performing character recognition (col. 9 line 63-col. 10 line 19) and output a character code and likelihood of the recognition (col. 10 lines 20-); and

detecting whether or not to require the rotation, the angle of the rotation, and the mirror image flipping, which are intended for correcting the character image (col. 10).

As to claims 4-5, the combination of Spitz and Takaoka does not explicitly mention the ratio of black pixel and aspect ration of the character.

Examiner takes Official Notice that these features are notoriously well known in the art.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the ratio of black pixel and aspect ratio of the character in the device of Spitz in order to accurately determine the orientation of the document image.

As to claims 6-8, all limitations are addressed with regard to claims 1-2.

As to claim 9, Spitz discloses a line image extraction unit extract whole or part of a line from an input image as a line image (Fig. 3b-3c). Other limitations are addressed with regard to claim 1.

As to claims 10-13, all limitations are addressed with regard to 9, and 6-8.

As to claims 15-17, all limitations are addressed with regard to claims 1-2, and 6-8.

As to claim 14, Spitz discloses a limitation of the character orientation detecting unit excluding some of a plurality of patterns (word spaces) the include a pattern of the character image within the input document image (col. 11-col. 12). Other limitations are addressed with regard to claim 1.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US 6360028 to Kaji et al., US 4837845 to Pruett et al., US 6151423 to Melen, and US 6249604 to Huttenlocher et al. discloses a method for obtaining object data to reconstruct the original image.

**Contact Information**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to Jingge Wu whose telephone number is (703) 308-9588. He can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm. The examiner can be also reached on second alternate Fridays.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to TC customer service whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Amelia Au, can be reached at (703) 308-6604.

The Working Group Fax number is (703) 872-9314.

Jingge Wu

Primary Patent Examiner

